

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 21, 2025

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KAUFMAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM OUR PASTOR:

Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

We love stories. I don’t know many people who would say otherwise. We love powerful stories. Happy stories. Stories of loss and redemption. It’s one of the most relatable things about Jesus – he loves to tell stories. So we listen to Jesus’ stories, and I think we often assume we know exactly what they mean. But Lent is about putting away our assumptions, our arrogance, and our short-sightedness to re-focus on what we are truly hearing from Jesus.

Who are the lost sheep? It’s an important question. When Jesus explains why he unapologetically rubs shoulders with the “tax collectors and sinners,” he tells this story of the joy of recovering one who wandered away. So, if we’re in church, worshiping, praying, reading the Scripture, listening to the sermon, we’re obviously not the lost sheep, right?

Fair enough. But the better question for us might be, “have we wandered away from the shepherd?” Have we, the flock of God, left the care of the Jesus we belong to in search of other shepherds or other promises?

See you Sunday!

Rhea

Lenten Sermon Series: Faith Works

MARCH 9- BELIEVING (ROMANS 10:8B-13)

This is the foundation of faith. We must examine our own belief and whether it matches our words and actions.

MARCH 16 - IMITATING (PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1)

As we grow, we need examples of faithfulness to which we look and aspire to follow.

Choral Special "Grace"

MARCH 23 - LEARNING (1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13)

We must be able to adapt and improve as we continue to learn and grow.

Children's Choir Special "Awesome God" and "Only a Boy Named David"

MARCH 30 - RECONCILING (2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21)

As we learn and grow, we will also make mistakes. We must not only learn from them, but work to heal the hurt we cause when we fail.

Choir Special "Written In Red"

APRIL 6 - BEING HUMBLE, BEING CONFIDENT (PHILIPPIANS 3:4-14)

There is a balance that comes with maturity, and a healthy spirit seeks that balance.

Joyful Ringers ft. Dave Spaulding "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

APRIL 13: PALM SUNDAY - LOOKING TO JESUS (PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11)

As we enter into Holy Week, preparing to witness to Jesus' experience of trial, death, and resurrection, we look to him as our example. By looking to Jesus, the life we are building comes together.

Choral Palm Sunday Special "On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem"



The Music Department has much for you to experience in worship during Lent. Chancel Choir will be singing some very special anthems. We start off with "Grace" which is what the cross gives us. Then we sing "Written in Red", a gorgeous anthem about what Christ gave to us in love at Calvary. On Palm Sunday, we will sing a powerful anthem, "On That Day, When He Rode Into Jerusalem" about Christ's entry into Jerusalem but also foreshadows the passion week to come. Finally at Easter, we will sing "Crown Him" to the King of Kings who is raised from the dead!

The children will participate in worship on March 23rd doing a scarf routine that they created to "Awesome God". They will also sing "Only a Boy Named David".

Joyful Ringers will join us on April 6th with "Variations of Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley". It has 4 variations. Dave Spaulding will be joining us on the fourth variation.

Join us this Lenten season to strengthen your walk with Christ!

"The LORD is my song"

Leona Adams

Music Director

Dear Sunshine Gang & Friends,

We are expecting a successful "Hunt for the Illusive Dogwoods" this Saturday. After years of waiting and planning, the stars have finally aligned so that we will have a chance to find the Dogwood trees hiding in and around Palestine.

Seriously, the plan is to take the church bus this Saturday, March 22, to travel to Palestine and the Dogwood Trail in that area. We will meet in the church parking lot (bus doors open at 9:15) and drive off at 9:30 a.m.

We will stop somewhere in or around Palestine for lunch and then return by mid-afternoon. The first 15 to reply to this email will have a seat on the bus and I'm sure there are several of us willing to drive our cars for any extras who show up.

This is short notice but should be a perfect time to take our first outing of the year and see God's nature in bloom.



***Please respond and let me know if you are coming.
972-962-8939 or 214-802-7148.***

Thanks a bunch!

Carole Aga

4th Annual

**First United Methodist Church
Ladies Tea**

Saturday, April 12. 2:00 - 4:00
208 S. Houston St.. Kaufman

*Invite your Mothers, Daughters,
Granddaughters, Aunts,
Cousins, and Friends*

NEW this year!
Decorate your table contest!
Deadline to enter is April 1st.

*RSVP to Carol
972.890.2806*

Special musical guest: Corey McCurry

The entire announcement is framed by a decorative border of pink cherry blossoms and a large, ornate teapot with pink roses. The teapot is white with a blue and pink floral pattern and a pink lid. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with green leaves. The background of the announcement is white with a subtle floral pattern.

March 30th is our 5th Sunday Fellowship Luncheon.

Please bring an entrée, side, or dessert to share as we come together to fellowship and enjoy a good old-fashioned pot luck meal together.



A long standing tradition in the Methodist Church is the presentation of bibles to 3rd graders. Since we have not done this in a few years, this year we will present bibles to 4th and 5th graders also.

The children's bibles are sponsored by our Methodist Women.



Embark on a Road Trip Adventure at VBC!



Join us for a journey where young travelers explore exciting destinations with the navigator and their pup, Scout! Through Bible stories, games, and challenges, they'll discover that God is always with them. Road Trip VBC is more than just fun—it's a journey of faith and friendship!



Kids will set their GPS to biblical truth, learning from Biblical heroes and our theme verse, "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Mark Your Calendars: June 24th - June 27th!

There's a place for everyone to help make this adventure possible! Whether you pass out flyers, donate items, decorate, sing, cook, teach, or drive the bus, your talents are needed and appreciated.

Interested in volunteering? Contact

Leslie Bullock 325-201-3855 or

Shiloh Lear 580-743-0071

Let's create an unforgettable journey together!



TEMPATIONS

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 reminds us that everyone faces temptations, but God will always provide a way out, so we can stay strong in our faith and choose to do what's right.

Let's talk about temptations!

What are temptations?

Think of temptations as little whispers or strong urges to do something that isn't good or that we know we shouldn't do.

Do we all sometimes face temptations?

Of course we do...everyone faces temptations! Let us say that to ourselves again...EVERYONE face temptations, and even the Israelites in the Bible faced temptations.

What does 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 tell us?

This passage reminds us that the Israelites, who saw amazing miracles from God, still struggled with temptations and disobeyed God.

But what's the good news?

The good news is God is faithful, and He will always be faithful and will always give you a way out of temptation, so you can stand strong and choose to do what's right.



But how do we stay strong?

We ask God for help, we can pray, read the Bible, and stay away from things that might lead us to temptation.

Remember: God loves you and wants you to be strong in your faith, so lean on Him and trust that He will help you overcome any temptation.

Dear Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we face temptations. We know you are always there to help. Help us to choose to do what's right, and to stay strong in our faith. In His name we pray, Amen."

Love and Blessings, Karen

Gather at the Cross

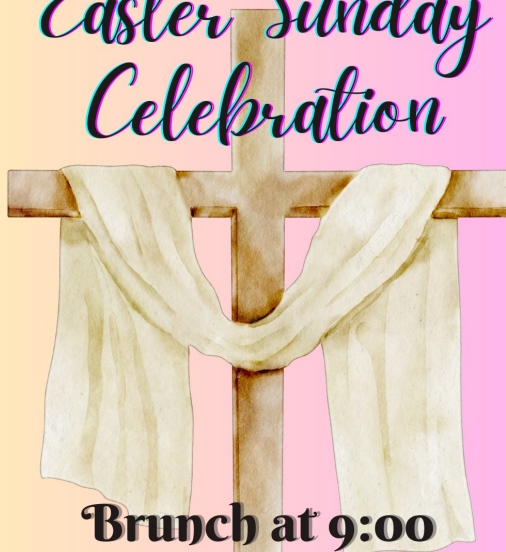


Open Invitation to Members & Guests

You are invited to join the Agape Class and Gather at the Cross on our church grounds Easter morning at 8:15, prior to Easter Brunch. We will have a brief ceremony, removing the black cloth that represents mockery, suffering, crucifixion, and death of Christ and replace it with the white cloth that represents the resurrection of Christ. The white cloth remains on the cross from Easter Sunday through Ascension Day when the cross remains bare until next Lenten season.

Chairs will be brought out for this brief ceremony. Please join us as a meaningful way to begin our special Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday Celebration



Brunch at 9:00
Egg Hunt 9:45
Resurrection Celebration 10:15

Our Easter Sunday Celebration will begin with our annual Brunch and Egg Hunt. Please bring a breakfast - type dish to share.

As you enter the sanctuary on Easter Morning, for Resurrection Celebration, on April 20, please add a flower to our cross for the *Flowering of the Cross*. You may bring your own or use some of those that are provided.



We are receiving donations of wrapped Easter Candy, pre-filled Easter Eggs, and plastic fillable eggs. Please drop off in the West Room or church office.





Sunday School

Where Bible Study and Fellowship Meet

All Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday




Adult Sunday School meets in Adult Center.



Good Fellowship, Good Conversation, Good Friends, and Good Coffee.

Adult Sunday School AGAPE CLASS Fellowship Hall at 9:00



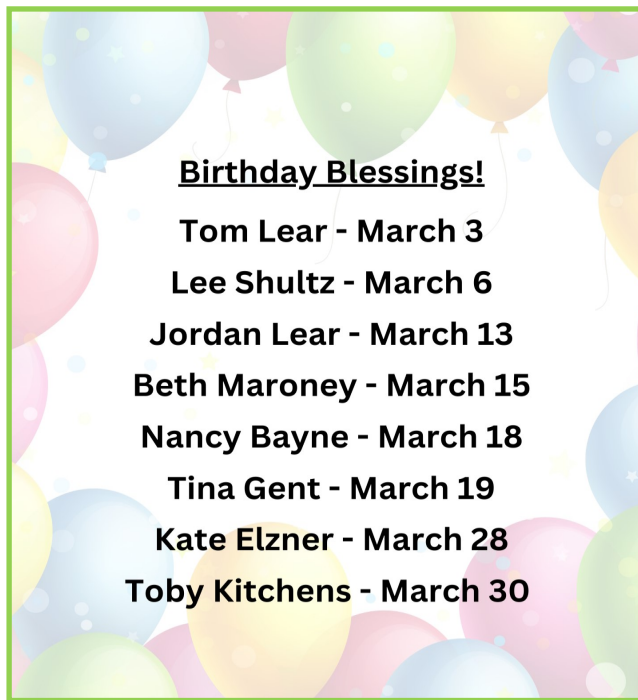
Mr. Mike is excited to lead our youth with biblical teaching, encouraging them to live into their growing faith, and mentor them as they seek to apply Christian values in their daily relationships.

Mike with bring the donuts!

Bring your children ages Pre-k through 5th grade to our weekly Sunday School Class in the Orange Room. With games, video, songs, activities, and bible lessons, Leslie, Robin, and Tana will help your kiddos learn what matters most is to Simply Love Jesus and each other.

1 John 4:7 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'





Birthday Blessings!

- Tom Lear - March 3**
- Lee Shultz - March 6**
- Jordan Lear - March 13**
- Beth Maroney - March 15**
- Nancy Bayne - March 18**
- Tina Gent - March 19**
- Kate Elzner - March 28**
- Toby Kitchens - March 30**



NOW Backpack at OP Norman Jr. High
 At this time we have 18 students identified as in need for the service. Below is the list of things that are in need:
 Shampoo and Conditioner
 peanut butter
 tuna or chicken pouches
 small juices

The Leadership class and Mrs. Maly thank you so much for the generosity of the church. It helps out tremendously!

Senior Connect - Kaufman Meals on Wheels

Partnering with Senior Connect, our church delivers a hot meal to our neighbors each **Wednesday** throughout the year.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Pam Caffey.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 16

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:00 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, March 17

- 6:00 p.m. Leadership Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 18

- 10:00 a.m. Friendship Sewing Club
- 2:30 p.m. Mary Group Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Rachel Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 19

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Trinity Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Children's Choir
- 5:45 p.m. Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. The Joyful Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 20

- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Mark Your Calendars

- March 29 - Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast**
- March 30 - 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch**
- April 5 - All Church Spring Clean-up Day**
- April 12 - Spring Tea**
- April 27 - VBC Fundraiser Lunch**
- May 4 - H.S. Graduation Luncheon**
- June 10 - Salad Bar Luncheon Fundraiser**
- June 24-27 - Vacation Bible Camp**

